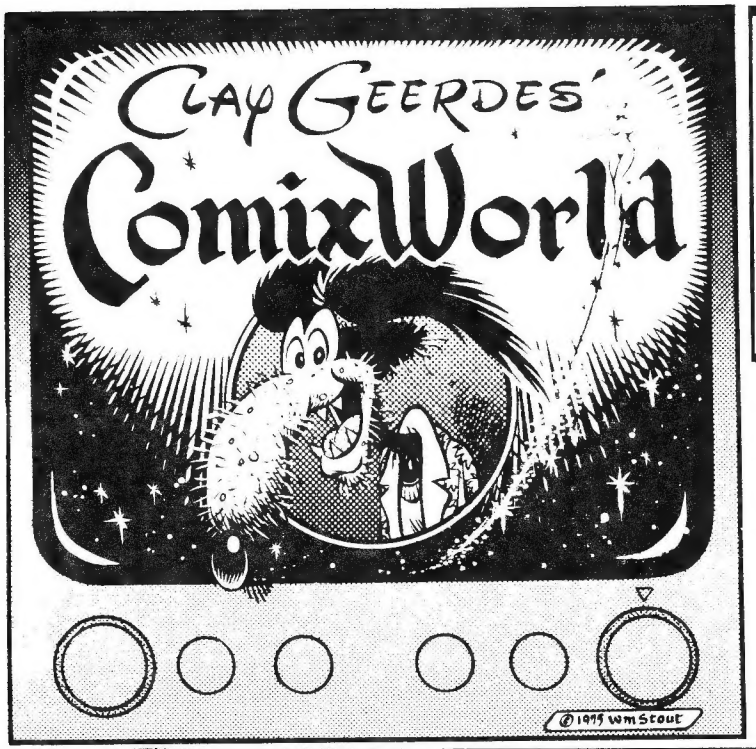

COMIX WORLD 42. Copyright Clay Geerdes, P. O. Box 507, Cotati, Ca 94928. World rights reserved. $3.50 for 12. $6.50 for 24. 41 back issues for $7 ($5 for regular subscribers who want to find out what they missed). Comix World is producing Underground '76, The Berkeley Con, this year's big all-underground party. It's on April 30-May 2 in Pauley Ballroom at the University of California in Berkeley. $6.50 for all three days. $2.50 for a single. Tables are $35 (and include two admissions). Order from ASUC/SUPERB, 304 Eshleman Hall, U of Calif., Berkeley, Ca 94704.* Doug Hansen is putting together an all-animal comic & says it should be ready for the Con. He's got guys like Jim Himes, Dave Geary, Tucker Petertil, Joel Milke and others working with him. All these people met through Comix World and that makes me feel good. The younger artists are going to play a major role in the Berkeley Con this year. The East Coast Industry is in its last stages of decay and collapse and things are just beginning here in the West.* Jim Pinkoski sent me the cover to SPACED 3. On back of the xerox, he says the book will be a tab with a first run of 1-2,000. 20 pages completed. Jim manages the San Jose Comic Art Shop. * Trina tells me the art is all in to Krupp for the women's sex fantasy comic.* Guy Colwell's art on exhibit at Nannygoat Gallery, 3205 Folsom St, S. F. Thurs-Sun 1-7 P:M. Show runs from February 20-March 15 '76. An interview with Colwell will run in CW 43.* "Gary Arlington supports the Big party!" Gary doing well in his store at 3339 23rd St. San Francisco.

2-10-76

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STARTS FRESH THIS WEEK IN THE VOICE: Mr. Natural BY R. CRUMB (P. 11)

You can't keep a good guru down. As you see around you, Mr. Natural's back and he is to be a regular in the Village Voice, 80 University Place, New York, 10003. If you can't get one in your town, drop me a line.* L'Echo Des Savannes 16 just out. A couple of bucks from 17 Rue D'Odessa, Paris 14e, and worth more. 16 has a Wally Wood cover, one of the panels from his "My Word" in BIG APPLE COMIX.* Into doing wargame art? Contact Jack Greene Jr., Avalon Hill, 4517 Harford Rd, Baltimore, Md 21214. $100 covers for the Avalon Hill GENERAL. All original art returned. Good anatomy & draftsmanship.* Trudeau will be subject of an article in second issue of Paul Jacobs new mag, MOTHER JONES. His Call Me When You Find America will be released by Bantam this month. $1.25.* TALES OF SEX AND DEATH 1 is back in print. So are CHEECH WIZARD 1, MOTOR CITY 1 & 2, & BIG-ASS 1 & 2.

2-10-76

Crumb!

A lot of people in the '60s said they were going to work outside the existing framework of cultural commerce to create an alternative mass culture. Underground cartoonists took that pledge seriously enough to build a distribution network for their work. They abandoned commercial graphics and, in many cases, gallery art for uncertain revenue and even the threat of arrest—because the work they were drawing was pretty raunchy stuff.

Despite that, underground comix reached almost as many people as rock records did, without the record industry Leviathan and without spewing profits into the pockets of working artists. Underground cartoonists—the best of them still publish in San Francisco 10 years after the movement began—combined the ideal of collective action with a surrealist's sense of the therapeutic value of dreams, and still produced work which would look right on a traditional American funny page.

Robert Crumb is the best-known of these cartoonists because his work is so protean and so accessible. His first commercial strip, "Fritz the Cat," is now someone else's movie. His "Keep on truckin' " drawings inspired a myriad of posters, stickers, and buttons—all without his consent. TV commercials have been based on his use of the bulbous slouch, and an entire approach to fashion may be said to have originated in his pen.

"Be animalistic—and always play fair," was his advice. I know of more than one zaftig lady who found self-acceptance in his plump and fructose women, just as I know of more than one lachrymose doper who felt the '60s pass more mercifully because of Crumb's arch-assurance. He seemed to understand that drugs were more than heaven and hell. They also meant dirty dishes in the morning, and swastikas falling from the sky, and blurt-balloons which read: "The Void."

Mr. Natural is what most people think of when they think of R. Crumb, and that's because Crumb has been drawing Mr. Natural in his comic books for years. Beginning this week, he will be drawing Mr. Natural as a regular feature in The Voice, and rather than explain how this man of wisdom differs from Harry Truman or the Perfect Boy, we are offering the first two chapters of his new adventures on p. 11.

—Richard Goldstein

A NEW SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY NO DOUBT! LAST TIME I SAW YOU IT WAS TH' DAY AFTER YOU JOINED TH' COMMUNIST PARTY... YOUR ENTHUSIASM KNEW NO BOUNDS...HA HA SILLY BOY!
NO, NO, NO, THAT WAS FIZZLED OUT... I'M ON A NEW KICK NOW... A FAR MORE ADVANCED POLITICAL THEORY... PERHAPS TOO ADVANCED, CONSIDERING THE PRESENT BARBARIC SOCIAL CONDITIONS, BUT WE CAN DISCUSS ALL THAT LATER... FIRST, I'VE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING I KNOW YOU'LL FLIP OVER...
HEY, NOW YOU'RE TALKIN'!! YOU REMEMBERED MY FAVORITE DISH.' BOILED CABBAGE!
PRIZISELY! PUT ON A POT O' WATER AN' GET OUT TH' BUTTER AN' TH' SALT 'N' PEPPER! WE'LL PONDER THE GREAT QUESTIONS OVER BIG STEAMING PLATES OF BOILED CABBAGE!!
WOTTA STROKE OF SHEER BRILLIANCE!!
YOU ARE A GENIUS!

FLYING PYRAMID ENTERPRISES
DOUG HANSEN AND ALL HIS FRIENDS WILL BE AT THE 1976 BERKELEY CON!
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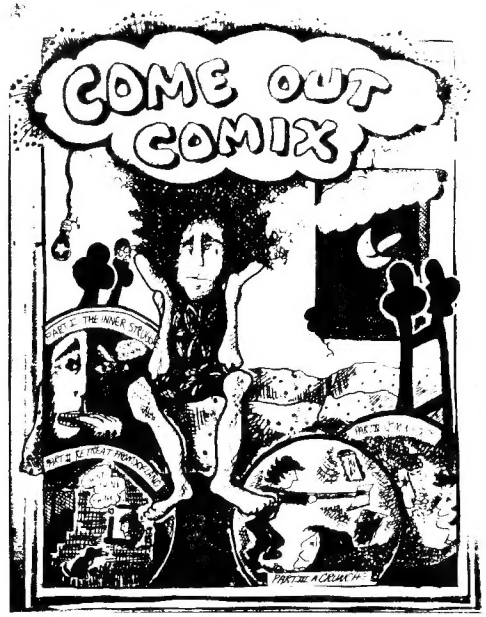
BARNEY STEEL RIPPED OFF: Barney's '68 Ford was stolen. Missing art includes 4 oil-acryllic paintings 18x24", 16 page story, "Barbarian Woman," 25 "heroic-Macho-Macha" ink & pencil illustrations, plus some short stories & other materials. If you see or find any of these, please call Barney collect at 714-960-2752. The pick-up was stolen in January in San Jose.* The April, 1976, issue of BRUT, a mag designed to outgross HUSTLER, has a complete spread on the work of Steel. A spread aimed at torture freaks was so repulsive to a local comic store owner that he decided to return BRUT to the distributor. The mag's address is 257 Park Avenue South, New York 10010.* My mini-review of THE YUM-YUM BOOK is in HUSTLER for March. Another of those articles "for the general reader who knows nothing about underground comix" will be in the April HUSTLER. Everytime I get a comic assignment from a major mag, I have to write the same article. Sex and violence before politics and sociology. It all pays the bills. 2-16-76

COME OUT COMIX you get from Amazon Reality, Box 95, Eugene, Oregon 97401. Written and drawn by Mary Wings, COME OUT is the story of a young woman who discovers she's gay. This unusual comic is $1 pp. The company also sells GRAND JURY COMIX for $1 pp. This book tells the facts about political grand juries. It was researched by Tina Versoza and drawn by Kate Jackrabbit. "Grand juries, or forced testimony & oaths, are a survival to present times of the grand inquisitions during the European Middle ages, when Church & State together were hunting witches & religious/political heretics." p.4. This book informs you of your rights & strikes me as a good investment.* John Mann has written a history of cocaine usage, THE PLEASURES OF COCAINE & I did the photographic cover. Level Press is the publisher & this book should be out by March.* Bantam has published Warren Hinckle's autobiography, IF YOU HAVE A LEMON, MAKE LEMONADE. Check out the ex-RAMPARTS, ex-SCANLON'S, current-CITY editor 's view of counter-culture on page 152. "Jann Wenner was considerably frustrated by my oafish refusal to print his dope and rock stories in the magazine, as I considered rock reporting as a state of the journalistic art on a level with Ben Gay ads." More sixties memorabilia. 2-15-76



E.Z. WOLF AND FRIENDS ARE A'COMIN' TO THE "BERKELEY CON"